

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

#### **Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) A seat recliner comprising:
  - a base mounted to a first seat member;
  - a gear mounted to a second seat member and being rotatable relative to the base, the gear having first teeth along a peripheral face of the gear;
  - a locking member ~~movable inside of the first teeth~~ rotatable about a pivot on the base, the locking member having second teeth engageable with the first teeth;
  - a cam configured to rotate the locking member to engage the first and second teeth with each other for establishing an angle between the first and second seat members;
  - a guide on the base extending radially from a vicinity of the first teeth to a vicinity of the cam and having a guide face for slidably guiding the locking member to engage the first and second teeth with each other,
  - ~~the guide extending radially from a vicinity of the first teeth to a vicinity of the cam,~~
  - the guide and the locking member defining a gap therebetween at a near side of the guide face relative to the first teeth and the locking member defining a gap therebetween so that a near side of the guide face relative to the cam abuts the locking member and maintains the locking member against the gear with the first and second teeth engaged.

2. (Original) The seat recliner according to claim 1,  
wherein an action line is normal to a gear face of a second tooth of the locking-member at the furthest position from the guide,  
wherein the gap extends radially inside of a position where the action line crosses the guide.
3. (Currently amended) The seat recliner according to claim 1,  
~~wherein the locking member is rotatably supported by a pivot on the base,~~  
wherein the locking member has an arced outer peripheral part, and  
wherein the outer peripheral part is slidably supported by the guide face of the guide for engaging the first and second teeth with each other.
4. (Cancelled).
5. (Currently amended) The seat recliner according to claim 1,  
wherein the gap extends radially inward from a vicinity of the first teeth,  
wherein the guide has an end at a near side of the guide relative to the first teeth,  
wherein the locking member has an outer peripheral face facing the guide, the outer peripheral face having a projection at the near side relative to the first teeth,  
wherein the end and the projection define a narrowed gap.  
~~wherein the gap has a gap portion between the end and an outer peripheral face of the locking member opposite to each other,~~  
~~wherein the gap portion is narrower than another gap portion.~~

6. (Original) The seat recliner according to claim 5,  
wherein the end of the guide has an end face configured to abut against the locking member, and  
wherein the end face is inclined radially outward relative to a direction of moving the locking member guided by the guide face.
7. (Currently amended) The seat recliner according to claim 5,  
wherein the ~~base has a~~ pivot is positioned in a vicinity of the first gear,  
wherein the pivot and the guide have the second teeth of the locking member interposed therebetween, and  
wherein the pivot functions as a fulcrum of the locking member.
8. (Original) The seat recliner according to claim 5,  
wherein an action line is normal to a gear face of a second tooth of the locking member at the furthest position from the guide, and  
wherein the gap extends radially inward from a vicinity of the first teeth to a position where the action line crosses the guide.
9. (New) The seat recliner according to claim 1,  
wherein the first teeth exert forces on the locking member, respectively, with the first and second teeth engaged,  
wherein action lines of the forces intersect the gap and do not intersect the guide face.